



Malherbe Monthly

Number 46
May 2008



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.
BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

County Councillor	Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart	890651
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Sylvia Close	858919
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	To be announced	
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders (email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk)	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Thursday afternoons at approx. 4.45 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
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John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in “Malherbe Monthly” are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!

Anything for the June edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th May

Front cover:

Barn dancers enjoying themselves in Grafty Green Village Hall

News from St. Nicholas Church

The Goldsmiths' Company

The Goldsmiths' Company are staging an Exhibition at Goldsmiths Hall in the City of London from 30th May to 12th July. The Exhibition is called 'Treasures of the English Church, Sacred Gold and Silver 800-2000'.

We have a special interest in this, as we have been asked to exhibit our 17th Century Communion Cup, which was given to St. Nicholas Church by Katherine, Countess of Chesterfield, in honour of her parents, Thomas Lord Wotton of Merley and his wife (nee Throckmorton) who lived at Boughton Place. Their coat of arms is engraved on the cup topped by a coronet, which denotes that she, Katherine Countess of Chesterfield, Lady Stanhope, gave it to the Church. This beautiful Communion Cup is usually on display at the Treasury in Canterbury Cathedral, and is kept there permanently for safekeeping. The Exhibition is open to the public. There will be posters around the Benefice, so if you are interested in going to the Exhibition information can be taken from the poster. Opening times are Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm.



The Communion Cup is Silver Gilt and stands 10½ " high. The Cup is 5" across and the Base is 6" across

Whitsunday (Pentecost)

Whitsunday falls on the 11th May this year and we have a Service at 9.30a.m., which will be conducted by Rev: Donald Bish, who has been taking our Services during the Interregnum and we have got to know him very well. Donald Bish, Tony Old and Yvonne Salmon have been conducting our Services ably assisted by Joan Drury and other Lay Readers, Priests, ALMs from the Benefice and other Parishes in the Deanery - we owe them all a great deal of thanks for their support during this interregnum year.

The Search for a Priest

We have again advertised for a Priest for this Benefice; we hope and pray that this time a suitable person will be found. The advert has been online and in the Church press and applicants will be short listed by the Bishops and the Archdeacon. The plan is for them to come and visit the Parishes on 8th and 9th May, when they will be interviewed by a group of Parish and Diocese Representatives.

APC Meeting

Our annual Parish AGM was held on the 2nd April 2008 in the Village Hall Grafty Green at 7.30p.m. It was a shame that more of you didn't attend this meeting to show an interest and to learn what has been going on in the Parish.

Kenneth Alexander and Joan Davidson were re-elected as Churchwardens. John Collins was elected Treasurer, but we are still looking for a Secretary. Is there anyone who would be able to do this job? The Secretary does not have to be member of the PCC. We have on average 6 meetings a year. John Millen is our Minute Secretary and the other members are Sally Alexander, Sylvia Close, Dominic Goodwin and Diana Parker. Michael Gear of Harrietsham was elected our Auditor.

Benefice Walk

The Benefice Walk will take place on 14th June. Can we encourage you to take advantage of this walk, as some of the route runs through farm land that is not normally open to the public. It will start at 9.00 a.m. and the route takes you past all four churches in the benefice. If you start at Boughton, you can go either to Ulcombe or Lenham; from Lenham on to Harrietsham and thence to Ulcombe and back to Boughton on the Greensand Way. Most of the route is off road, but it can also be done by car or bicycle on the roads - the more the merrier. Each church will have refreshments available. Boughton will have rolls with fillings on offer at lunchtime, with a soft drink, tea or coffee. It would be good if you could get sponsors per church or per mile - if you finish the whole route the distance is 11.5 miles. Do hope you can spare a few hours and enjoy our lovely countryside. HAPPY WALKING

Joan Davidson

Liverton Hill - Update

Following a recent safety audit and a report from Kent Police, Kent Highways have advised that the wooden posts that were installed on the bottom half of Liverton Hill are a dangerous hazard and are to be removed and replaced with plastic posts.

White lines are to be painted on both sides of the road in front of the posts with road signs indicating 'Single File Traffic' and that the road narrows.

We have no idea when this is to be done, unfortunately, the Hill will have to be shut again, but we have been promised 7 days notice and as soon as we know when, a notice will be put on the Parish Notice Board.

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

THE LEN VALLEY BENEFICE

St John's, Harrietsham

St Mary's, Lenham

The Four Church Walk

All four churches will be open on

Saturday June 7th

9.00 AM – 4.00 PM

**But if walking is just too much, dust off your cycle,
and if you feel too wobbly on that, it will not be frowned upon if
you even use a car.**

St Saints, Ulcombe

St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

Grafty Garden Cuttings - May

I love spring. The gardens and countryside just burst with new life and colour. This spring has mostly been rather cool, but the rain has meant the colour has been better than ever, especially the stunning displays of primroses and violets, which lasted much longer than usual.

With daffodils mostly over now, dead heading to promote better bulbs for next year's display is a must. If they spend their energy forming and maintaining seed heads now, they cannot bulk up so well for the future. If time is short or the numbers are great, take a whippy hazel rod and flick the dead heads off en-masse.

Bedding, container and outdoor tomato plants should be hardened off later this month, by gradually standing them out during the day, then overnight, for 2 weeks, before planting out, after all danger of frost has passed. Containers can be planted up any time this month and kept under cover until well established, again gradually introducing them to outside conditions. I am filling some of my containers with the little Tumbling Tom tomatoes this year - hoping the dreaded blight does not strike, as well as mixed salad leaves, to keep them away from the slugs, but any vegetables can be grown in this way.

Easter snow and frost was gorgeous to look at but ruined the magnolias and beat down the daffodils and tulips but did little damage elsewhere, although any fruit trees in bloom may have been frosted off. In turning out stored fleece and benching from the greenhouse, I happened upon several queen wasps, still hibernating, so feel we may be in for a 'good' (for them) wasp year. They do help reduce pests in the garden, aphids in particular; only becoming a nuisance to us when plums and pears begin to ripen, unless they are a particularly fierce variety, when they will rocket from their nests and give chase and sting on sight, as we have found to our cost!

We watched in fascination, the other day, as a hawk tried to capture a collard dove on the lawn a few yards from us. It managed to fly and land and fly a little further before the load proved too great and the dove escaped to live another day, minus several clumps of feathers. A pair of blackbirds was collecting worms in April, so presumably were already feeding young, despite the varied weather and nest building among the multitude of small birds goes on apace, despite the attentions of several magpies which, I think, were responsible for the pheasants deserting a nest of 17 eggs in one of our boarders.

Rosemary Smith



PROGRAMME FOR 2008

Date	Topic	Speaker
8 th January	AGM & The Vertical Gardener	Hilary Newman
5 th February	New Zealand Interlude	Brian Self
4 th March	The Garden as a Nature Reserve & Spring Show	Janet Bryant
1 st April	“Saxon Shore Way” part 2	Chris Wade
Sat 3rd May	Plant Sale	
6th May	Outing to Coptonsh, Faversham 6.30 pm. £2.50 + £1 tea and biscuits	
Sat 31st May	Outing Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst (National Trust) 2 pm House and Garden £7.50, Garden only £5.80	
20 th - 22 nd June	Weekend away staying in Bury St Edmunds, Best Weston Hotel, dinner bed and breakfast. Visiting Beth Chatto, Foggy Bottom, Mannington Gardens and Hyde Hall. £212 per person	
1 st July	Outing Tram Hatch, Charing Heath 6.30pm £3.50 + £1 tea and biscuits	
Sat 2 nd August	Outing Great Dixter, Northiam 2pm £6.50 garden only	
2 nd September	National Trust Gardens and how they are maintained & Autumn Show	Roger Smith
7 th October	Venezuela – plant hunting	Tom Hart-Dyke
4 th November	A Kent Woodland through the Seasons	Robert Canis
2 nd December	Practical evening making Christmas table or door decoration & Wine and nibbles	

The plant sale of the green is on Saturday 3rd May at 10am – If you want to run a stall to sell your own plants please contact Sue Burch 850381. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

The Garden Club is visiting Copton Ash near Faversham, on Tuesday 6th May, at 6.30 pm. Everyone welcome and as they are opening specially for us, it would be lovely to have a good turn out.

Link Word Puzzle - Answers at the back (don't look first!)

I hope you enjoyed last month's link word. Here is another
to rack your brains – Paul Neaves

The answer to number 1 has been filled in – can you solve the rest?

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Bread	Edge	Pen	Knife
2	Fishing	Hot	Stair	
3	Read	Red	Nelson	
4	Boat	Human	Meeting	
5	Days	Fruit	Green	
6	Corn	William	Pea	
7	Garden	Post	Tail	
8	Horn	Laser	Sun	
9	Racing	Tyre	Rate	
10	Cracker	Shaving	Ice	
11	Shadow	Filing	Maker	
12	Hero	Market	Model	
13	House	Moon	Stop	
14	Capital	News	Box	
15	Paper	Lifting	Bantam	
16	Coat	Stile	Star	

Many thanks to **Paul Neaves** who set the Missing Word Puzzle.

Platts Heath School Traditional Summer Fayre

Saturday 21st June

1pm until 4pm

Stalls, Refreshments, Tombola,
Traditional Games,
Bouncy Castle, Grand Prize Raffle, Hot Food,
Hobby Horse Gymkhana, Crockery Smash,
Coconut Shy, Cake, Jam & Scarecrow
Competitions, Entertainment,

You will find us on Headcorn Road, Platts Heath

Heaths Corridor Walk

Spend a day enjoying the countryside around Charing Heath, Lenham Heath and Sandway on Sunday 18th May 2008 10:30am to 4pm. The event is funded by the Heaths Countryside Corridor and Rail Link Countryside Initiative and promises to be a fun day for the whole family.

The Heaths Countryside Corridor (HCC) is providing a free bus from Sandway to Charing Heath throughout the day (from 10:15am to 4pm) to enable local people to visit the three sites owned by HCC. The bus will stop regularly along the route and will ensure everyone gets home at the end of the day. There will be trustees at Hurst Wood, Hurst Lane, between 10:30am and 12 noon providing information and a quiz about the route for the Walk at Hurst Wood. The Walk is 3.2 miles along, for the most part, public rights of way, but the cycle route along the country roads will also be well marked.

There will be free refreshments along the way and the walk finishes at Chilston Ponds, where there will be a variety of free activities including Animal model making, Desk top pond dipping, Tree investigation, Mini beast Hunt, Nature treasure Hunt. Why not bring a packed lunch or try the food available on site at minimum cost.

Limited parking available in and around these villages. For more information Contact Karen Gillett on 01622 859392, visit <http://www.heathsgcc.co.uk/>, or email: ruth_lovering@hotmail.com

Ruth Lovering

Grafty Green Heating Oil Syndicate

Grafty Green has its own Heating Oil Syndicate. We have over 200 members who benefit from cheaper Heating Oil when ordered in bulk. If you are prepared to buy at least 500 Litres 3 or 4 times a year, and are fed up with Oil Tankers trundling through your village every week causing damage to our roads not to mention the environmental cost and you want to join, email europa.13@btinternet.com or call Keith Anderson on 01622 858350. We now reach out to over 25 villages in the Ashford and Maidstone area. This club is non profit making.

Keith Anderson

Maidstone — Chart Sutton — Kingswood — Grafty Green

59

Mondays to Fridays

Service No:	School Days Only	School Days	Not School Days	School Days Only	School Days	Not School Days
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	59	59	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1227	1402	—	1555	1555	1615 1700 1750
Wheatsharf	1229	1404	—	1557	1557	1617 1702 1752
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1236	1411	—	1604	1604	1624 1709 1759
Linton Corner	1240	1415	—	1608	1608	1624 1713 1803
Chart Sutton	1244	1419	—	1612	1612	1717 1807
Chart Sutton	—	—	1505	—	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1249	1424	—	1617	1617	1722 1812
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1252	1427	1509	1620	1620	1725 1815
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1255	1430	1512	1623	1623	1728 1818
Wormlake Corner	1258	1433	1515	—	1626	1638 1731 1821
Kingswood, Village Hall	1306	—	1523	—	1634	1646 — 1829
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1313	—	1530	—	1641	1653 — 1836
Ulcombe, Post Office	1320	—	—	—	1648	1700 — 1843
Grafty Green, King's Head	—	—	1535	—	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	1544	—	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	—	—	—	—

Saturdays

Service No:	School Days Only	School Days	Not School Days	School Days Only	School Days	Not School Days
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	59	59	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	0838	1241	1525	1755	—	—
Wheatsharf	0840	1243	1527	1757	—	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0847	1250	1534	1804	—	—
Linton Corner	1254	1538	—	—	—	—
Chart Sutton	1258	1542	—	—	—	—
Chart Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1303	1547	1817	—	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1306	1550	1820	R	—	—
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1309	1553	1823	R	—	—
Wormlake Corner	0859	1312	1556	1826	R	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0907	1320	—	1834	R	—
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0914	1327	—	1841	R	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	0921	1334	—	1848	R	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	—	—	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	—	—	—	—

Service 59: Maidstone, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Shells Crescent, Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street), Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Roads, Heath Road, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Ulcombe, Ashford Drive, Chart Sutton, Wormlake Corner, Kingswood, Village Hall, Ashford Drive, Warmingale, Grafty Green, Bottom Road, Linton Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

Buses running via Langley run as normal from Maidstone to Loose Road, then Sutton Road, Langley, Sutton Road, Warmingale Cross Roads, then as normal route to Grafty Green.

Buses terminating at Kingswood run as normal from Maidstone to Kingswood, Chartway Street, then Gravelly Bottom Road (Village Hall), Cayser Drive, returning via the normal route.

Service 66: Cornwalls Academy, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

Mondays to Fridays

Service No:	School Days Only	School Days	Not School Days	School Days Only	School Days	Not School Days
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	59	59	59	59	59	59
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	0736	—	—	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	0723	—	0723	—	0930	1325 — 1703
Ulcombe, Post Office	0730	—	0730	0937	1332	— 1710
Kingswood, Village Hall	0735	—	0735	0942	1337	1440 1440 1715
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0738	—	0738	0944	1339	1442 1442 1717
Wormlake Corner	0746	—	0744	0808	0950	1345 1448 1448 1723
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0739	0747	0809	0953	1348	1451 1451 1726
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0742	0750	0811	0956	1351	1454 1454 1729
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0745	0753	—	0959	1354	1457 1457 1732
Cornwalls Academy	—	—	0820	—	—	1507
Linton Corner	0750	0758	—	1004	1359	1502 1509 1737
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	—	1008	1403	1506 1513 1741
Wheatsharf	0758	0800	0806	—	1012	1407 1510 1517 1745
Maidstone, King Street	—	0810	0814	—	1020	1415 1518 1525 1753
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	—	—	—	—	—
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817	—	—	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	—	—	—	—	—

Saturdays

Service No:	School Days Only	School Days	Not School Days	School Days Only	School Days	Not School Days
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	59	59	59	59	59	59
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	0733	0923	1336	—	—	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	0740	0930	1343	—	—	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0745	0935	1348	1604	—	—
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0747	0937	1350	1606	—	—
Wormlake Corner	0753	0943	1356	1612	—	—
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0756	0946	1359	—	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0759	0949	1402	—	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0802	0952	1405	—	—	—
Cornwalls Academy	—	—	—	—	—	—
Linton Corner	0807	0957	1410	—	—	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0811	1001	1414	—	—	—
Wheatsharf	0815	1005	1418	1624	—	—
Maidstone, King Street	0823	1013	1427	1632	—	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	—	—	—	—	—	—
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sundays and Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

NOTE
1. The Saturday buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council by Nu-Venture (Tel: 01622 882288), NOT Arriva.

CODES
* — These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to Transport Integration, Kent County Council, Gibson Drive, West Malling, Kent ME19 4QG.
* — Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.
R — Sets down only upon request by passengers boarding at or before Loose Road, Plains Avenue.

School days aren't what they used to be....

School days aren't what they used to be.... they're just so much better. I can remember my mum having to forcibly remove myself and my siblings from our beds and virtually kick us out the door to school, off we'd go dragging our heels ever so reluctantly. At the end of the school day you wouldn't see us for dust as we ran home as fast as our little legs could carry us. I don't remember liking very much about school.

School days at our house are quite the opposite; my two girls constantly nag me to hurry up as they can't wait to get to school in the morning. The school day finishes at 3.20pm but we're lucky if we get home before 4 o'clock and we live opposite the school!

This little school is always buzzing, teachers are always on hand for a chat and more often than not they can be found in the playground amongst the parents and children both in the morning and at the end of the day.

Today really made me smile, as usual we were all standing around chatting as you do at the end of the school day, but so much was going on, mums and dads were laughing and joking (it's so nice to see so many dads in the playground, and they can't half talk), the kids were running around, the headmaster was pushing the wheelbarrow as he was helping the gardening club unload pots and compost for their next project and then we all just stopped talking as we suddenly realised that Mrs Thomas our infants teacher was dancing and skipping around the playground with a trail of children right behind her, they were doing the conga, it was delightful. No wonder they're in no rush to go home.

In addition to skipping around with Mrs Thomas the children have been getting plenty of exercise with the after school clubs, there's sports club, Judo and Maypole dancing. The Judo classes are still going strong and last week Hazel somehow managed to join in the lesson, proving that some of our parents really are big kids! I think the reason they get involved is because they wish they were back at school.

The Maypole dance classes are led by one of our parents Abi Crutcher. Abi freely gives her time on Wednesday afternoons, how she manages to get the children to perform what looks like very exhausting, colourful and complicated dances, I just don't know but, the end result is something to be admired.

Another group to be admired are our Gardening club, this group get busy during Thursday afternoons and again two of our parents Julia Mandell and Sue Davies freely give their time to teach the children how to seed and cultivate plants. The PTFA has recently purchased barrels and compost to assist them in their spring project. We can't wait to see the results of all their efforts.

Julia is also assisting Mrs Thomas and The Platts Heath Eco-Warriors (a team comprising children from each class) towards achieving a Bronze Award as we have now registered with Eco-Schools. Eco-Schools is an international award programme set up by the government as it wants every school to be a sustainable school by 2020. The programme guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed sustainable development issues and sustainable practices into the heart of school life. We are already recycling paper, yogurt pots and are ensuring lights are switched off. Recycling of food waste in the compost bin is next on the agenda. The recycling of aluminium cans has brought in £100 to date. It certainly is inspiring.

The efforts of Richard Latham certainly seem to be making an inspiring impression on our pupils. Richard has brought a djembe drumming project to the school. A djembe drum is a West African percussion instrument. Over five sessions the children will have fun while learning a variety of percussion rhythms; the sessions encourage creativity and self expression. The children have raved about it and can't wait for the next lesson; they are enjoying the inspiring creativity these lessons bring.

For those not so into music; there's a chance to get creative with the scarecrow competition. Each form has been given the task of making a character scarecrow, their efforts will be judged and the winners entered at the Kent county Show, this will give them good practice as we will also be holding a scarecrow competition as part of this year's summer Fayre.

The summer Fayre plans are well under way. Put the date in your diary Saturday 21 June. A traditional Fayre and Gymkhana is what we hope to bring you, with blasts from the past that you just don't see any more and one that you have probably never seen and that is our hobby horse Gymkhana, yes, I did say hobby horse, even though our horses aren't real we've got a horsy expert on board to help us with this one and Jaime is so enthusiastic so it should be good fun.

So it's all go from here on in, our parent's lives will no longer be their own for the next two months as we rope them in to assist in all the weird and wonderful tasks that have to be carried out to bring about this yearly event. We are ever so lucky in that all our parents contribute in one way or another. That is the beauty of a small school, there are always opportunities to get involved and really be part of your child's education.

If you would like to know more about our school, please contact our headmaster Mr Ian Priddle on 01622 850316.

Angie McElvanney On behalf of Platts Heath School

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

The Trustees of St Edmunds held their AGM on Tuesday the 18th March and were rather disappointed to have only two members of the village at the meeting. A copy of the secretary's report follows this article for the people unable to attend the meeting in person. Our chairman Brian Fuller informed the meeting he was stepping down from the committee.

After five years leading the committee through the refurbishment of the centre our chairman Brian Fuller has stepped down. Brian put a lot of hard work into the clearing of all the Ivy, Hawthorn etc from the outside of the building at the start of the project, working in extremely high temperatures and heavy rain at times. He ran some of the first fundraising events the new committee held. Brian took over the chairmanship from the Reverend Don Irvine in 2003; he became a trustee of St Edmunds in order to save the hall from closure. He also ran a stool at the School fair each year since becoming chairman. However he now feels the hard work has been done and the time is right for some new younger blood to take on the chairmanship of the committee.

The remaining committee members wish Brian well in his retirement and thank him for his continued support as a trustee.

Karen Yardley is hoping to start a mother and toddlers group in the hall and there are quite a number of toys ready and waiting for the children who do go along. So if you are interested in this group please phone Karen for details on 858208.

Secretary's Report

I would like to thank you all for attending this evening.

After a shaky start, with the builders working until the day before our opening in April and with many small jobs still requiring our attention. I was gratified to see so many of the villagers turn out to the re-opening by Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart on 28th April 2007. A sincere thanks goes to all those who made the day so successful the Invicta Swing Band who gave up their Saturday jobs, the Grafty Dancers with their demonstration dances and of course Platts Heath School for their variety of displays and performances.

I must also thank Mike Jenny and Val who worked really hard to turn what had become an over grown wilderness into a neat and pretty garden. My thanks also go to all those who donated the plants.

Our treasurer Duffrey Robinson has spent a great deal of time working on a variety of jobs which were left for us after the contractors had finished, and he continues to carry out the day to day maintenance. Thanks Duffrey from the rest of the committee.

I think all the committee suffered from stress over load this year and that coupled with a shorter year reflected in a smaller number of events held. However the rounders match and Bar-B-QUE in June was well supported again, it does seem to have become an annual event.

The dance with the Invicta Swing band was most enjoyable and we hope to have another one this year. The very popular quiz masters John and Helen Nye staged our first quiz night on home ground. The fish and chip supper was well supported even though we kept you waiting for the food, however we do hope to have a more traditional Harvest Supper this year. The Line Dancers and the Morris Dancers have both returned.

Mr Priddle the headteacher of Platts Heath School has again used the hall for a variety of activities and I for one really enjoyed the school performances of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in July and the Nativity play at Christmas.

January 2008 saw the start of these years' private bookings for adult and children's parties. They seem to have been successful and are just what we hoped to see. All the facilities we have are available for use by hirers and we hope to add to them as and when more funds become available

We are also pleased to have received an inquiry for a mother and toddlers group to start in the coming months, we already have quite a large number of toys in place should the venture take off, this is just what we hoped for when refurbishment was planned.

Finally we are planning to start a film club this year with the showing of one children's film in the afternoon and an adult film for the evening.

Tricia Dibley

Neighbourhood Watch

It is strongly recommended to fit a locking device to your Oil Tank. Several villages in Kent have been hit by thieves stealing Oil from unlocked tanks.

Keith Anderson (Neighbourhood Watch)

ART SHOW

The Tithe Barn • Lenham • Kent

11th Annual Summer Art Show

This will be the 11th annual Summer Art Show by the Pilgrims Way Artists in the magnificent 14th Century Tithe Barn in the village of Lenham Kent.

The Tithe Barn

The barn is reputed to be the largest of its type still standing in England. The wagon pond has recently been restored and is a wildlife haven.

26 Artists and Sculptors

26 artists and sculptors will be showing their work in what is becoming the biggest and best art event in Kent.

The artists exhibiting, range from students to age unknown, and their talents from the naive to the extraordinary.

In the group there is a smattering of Fine Art Degrees; a daub of Fauves; a splash of exhibitionists including some who have dipped their brushes into the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition; a smudge of pastellists; a whiff of oil painters; a splash of water-colourists and a cluster of ingenious sculptors

Free Demonstrations

There is an outdoor area for large sculptures and in the barn, free demonstrations in oils, batik, watercolour, pastels, portraiture and jewellery.

Talk to the artists

The artists will be on hand to discuss their work and you can watch artists in action.

Portraits

Have your portrait sketched for £30

Featured Artist Lee O'Connor
Bright, colourful landscapes,
seascapes and flowers

Tea, Coffee & Homemade cakes
Relax with a cup of tea or coffee
and homemade cakes

Opening Times are from
10 am to 6 pm daily

Catalogues £1
Includes a free draw for an
Original Painting by Janet Jackson

ADMISSION IS FREE
Free parking

Car entrance next to Fire Station, The High Street
Pedestrians from the village Square - Easy wheelchair access

Artists & Sculptors

Pat Abson Pauline Appleton
Bruce Argue Thomas Boyd
Yvonne Bonham Carol Calver
Mike Calver Marna Elphick
Barry Elphick Emmy Elphick
Jane Ford Janet Jackson
Clive Lennard Natalie Greenwood
Charles Miller Lee O'Connor
Ailsa Rees Don Pattinson
Lesley Feakes Richard Nott
Marie Pretti Justin Calver
Annette Stephens Josie Mahoney
Richard Friend Tim Riddihough



**ARTISTS
DEMONSTRATION EVENING**
Demonstrations by 26 artists,
each showing their unique styles and techniques • Sociable & fun
Tickets £5 (includes refreshments)
Wednesday Evening at 6.30 pm • 21 May 2008

11th Summer Art Show – Saturday 17th May to Monday 26th May

Flower Festival

Church of St Peter & St Paul

East Sutton

Songs & Poetry in Flowers

Friday 2nd May 12.00 noon – 3.30pm

Saturday 3rd May 10.00am – 4.00pm

Sunday 4th May 11.00am – 4.00pm

Monday 5th May 11.00am – 4.00pm

Please come and enjoy this celebration of
Songs and Poetry in Flowers in the beautiful surroundings of our
medieval church



There will be music and refreshments available throughout the Festival
Admission free but donations in aid of the Church
will be gratefully received

BBQ RULES

We are about to enter the summer and BBQ season. Therefore it is important to refresh your memory on the etiquette of this sublime outdoor cooking activity, as it's the only type of cooking a 'real' man will do, probably because there is an element of danger involved.

When a man volunteers to do the BBQ the following chain of events are put into motion:

Routine...

- (1) The woman buys the food.
- (2) The woman makes the salad, prepares the vegetables, and makes dessert.
- (3) The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill - drink in hand.

Here comes the important part:

- (4) THE MAN PLACES THE MEAT ON THE GRILL.

More routine...

- (5) The woman goes inside to organize the plates and cutlery.
- (6) The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is burning. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another drink while he deals with the situation.

Important again:

- (7) THE MAN TAKES THE MEAT OFF THE GRILL AND HANDS IT TO THE WOMAN.

More routine...

- (8) The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauces, and brings them to the table.
- (9) After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.

And most important of all:

- (10) Everyone **PRAISES** the **MAN** and **THANKS HIM** for his cooking efforts.
- (11) The man asks the woman how she enjoyed "her night off." And, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women...

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 27th July 2008. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 7th June: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 26th July: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 10th May: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Green Lane
Sunday 6th July: 14:30 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 24th May: 07:45 – 08:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)
Sunday 13th July: 11:15 – 12:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

Lenham

Saturday 7th June: 09:00 – 10:30 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd
Saturday 26th July: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd

Malherbe Monthly Magazine

This magazine can now be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition, all back issues for 2006, 2007 and 2008 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

This web site also hosts all the minutes of Parish Council Meetings and give details of up-coming events in the Village Hall. The below link will get you there:

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

The May Night Sky

As this month is not the most interesting one for the planets, I thought in this article I would deal briefly with the key facts and then conclude with a subject that has always fascinated me, 'what powers our Sun?'

New Moon this month occurs on Monday 5th May and Full Moon on Tuesday 20th May.

There will be an opportunity to see Mercury low in the northwest after sunset. The best night to view this elusive small planet is in the late evening on Tuesday 6th May, just to the lower left of the new crescent Moon. Venus, the 'Morning Star' again cannot be seen this month as it is close to the Sun. Mars is still well up in the western sky at dusk and sets in the northwest in the early hours of the morning.

The giant planet Jupiter rises just before dawn in the southeast and remains low down near the horizon so is not easy to observe. Saturn is high in the south-western sky at dusk and doesn't set until dawn. It is moving very slowly southeast in the constellation of Leo.

Now for the Sun. The Sun is a medium-sized star, which formed from a collapsing cloud of gas about 4.6 billion years ago. Its diameter is 865,000 miles and is 92,970,000 miles from Earth. In fact sunlight takes 8.3 minutes to reach us.

The Sun's power source is thermonuclear fusion, which occurs in the core, which can reach temperatures of 15 million °C. Under extreme temperatures and pressure isotopes of hydrogen, namely, deuterium and tritium fuse together forming helium, neutrons and vast amounts of energy. When the isotopes fuse to form helium there is a small reduction of mass, resulting in the release of large amounts of energy. One can see this when one looks at Einstein's famous equation, $E = MC^2$, where 'E' stands for energy, 'M' for mass and 'C' for the speed of light. For the equation to balance when there is even a very small reduction in mass, there has to be a tremendous release of energy. After all the speed of light squared is a very large figure.

Thousands of scientists are now working on ITER, 'The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor' with the aim of creating the fusion reaction on Earth. Although this will take many years, it would certainly solve the world's energy problems. The raw materials are readily available, no carbon dioxide emissions and little nuclear waste.

Think of it, no expensive oil!

John Maunder

The Grafty Gourmet

Thought it would be a good idea to introduce recipes into the magazine. I will try and keep them simple, so that even the less experienced cook can have a go. This first recipe is from Sicily, and is very simple indeed. As some of the evenings are still a bit on the chilly side, I thought I would start with this lovely lamb casserole.

For a more authentic taste, the drained tin tomatoes can be swapped with 2 x large Beef Tomatoes (peeled and chopped). To peel the tomatoes, simply boil them until the skin starts to blister. Remove them from the water and allow to cool slightly. The skin of the tomato can then be easily peeled with your hands. However, the drained tin tomatoes are an ideal substitute, and is a lot simpler.

SICILIAN LAMB CASSEROLE

(Serves 4)

¼ cup (60ml) Olive Oil

1 kg diced lamb

1 Large Onion chopped

3 Cloves of Garlic. Crushed

1 Tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary

2 Large potatoes, peeled and chopped (into approx 1 inch cubes)

425g Tin of Chopped Tomatoes, drained

425g Can of tomato puree or sieved tomatoes

1. Heat oil in a frying pan or wok. Add lamb and cook until browned. Add chopped onion, crushed garlic and rosemary and cook whilst stirring until the onion is soft.

2. Transfer the mixture to an oven proof dish, or casserole dish. Add the potatoes, drained tin tomatoes (or peeled and chopped beef tomatoes) and add the tomato puree. Mix well and cook covered in a moderately hot oven for about 1½ hours, or until the lamb is tender

3. Serve with your favourite vegetables, and enjoy.

This recipe can be made a day ahead, and stored (covered) in the fridge. It can also be frozen for future use.

The Who'd A Thought It

About a dozen residents of Grafty Green attended a Sub-Committee hearing under the Licensing Act 2003 in Maidstone recently. They were there to oppose an application by the licensee of the Who'd A Thought It to vary the conditions of his premises licence. The group was represented by four spokesmen, including Cllr Richard Thick, who set out the various reasons for the objections to the application. The Sub-Committee decided to grant the application subject to the following conditions:

All activities except alcohol and late night refreshments

Sunday -Thursday 11.00 - 23.30, Friday & Saturday 11.00 - 00.30

Alcohol

Sunday - Thursday 11.00 - 00.30, Friday & Saturday 11.00-01.00

Late Night Refreshments

Sunday - Thursday 23.00 - 0.30, Friday & Saturday 23.00 - 01.00

Opening Hours

Sunday - Thursday 01.00, Friday & Saturday 01.30

Conditions

- Notices shall be displayed on the premises at all exits, including the car park, requiring customers to leave the premises quietly and respect the neighbours AND to park in the car park provided.
- All doors and windows shall remain closed whilst regulated entertainment is taking place.
- Noise generated by regulated entertainment shall be inaudible inside the nearest noise sensitive premises after 23.00.

The marquee outside is not subject to the licence and can only be used for licensable activities if subject to a temporary licence and any noise issues should be dealt with by the Environmental Health Department.

Neighbours should be aware that noise issues can be reported to EHO's and also to the police. There are powers for the review of the licence at any time.

If you would like to advertise in Malherbe Monthly and reach the whole of Boughton Malherbe, Grafty Green, Liverton Street and Platts Heath, the monthly costs are:

$\frac{1}{8}$ page	£3.00
$\frac{1}{4}$	£5.00
$\frac{1}{2}$	£10.00
Complete page	£20.00

Phone 01622 858937 or
email mf.hitchins@virgin.net

Friends of Kent Churches Annual Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk

This event has been running for over 20 years and this year promises to be a really successful day. The event takes place on Saturday 13th September 2008 from 10am to 6pm. Over 700 churches across Kent will be involved, welcoming riders and walkers, often with refreshments. Money is raised through sponsorship and is shared between your nominated church and the Friends of Kent Churches, who give grants for church repairs. Last year more than £140,000 was raised.

Plan your own route, long or short, flat or hilly, challenging or relaxed, whatever suits you. This is a lovely day out for all the family.

Visit the website – www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk for more information, sponsor forms, tee-shirts and more. Or contact – Carolyn Millen on 01622 843383, carolynmillen1@btinternet.com

Music Notes - May

'May music' conjures up the vision of balmy outdoor concerts under flowering blossom trees. In fact a review of our local offerings does not reveal any al fresco events. There is however a good range of quality events, as usual. Here are some:

- Saturday 3rd May – “An evening with Dr. Jazz” - a concert at 7.30pm at East Sutton Church. Tickets £8 – tel 01622 844973. This concert takes place as part of the East Sutton Flower Festival, held in the church from 2nd - 5th May.
- Thursday 8th May 8.00pm at Bradbourne House, East Malling – Phillip Dyson (piano) provides an evening with Beethoven, Chopin, Scott Joplin and scintillating conversation! Tickets £9 at the door.
- Saturday 10th May, 7.30pm at the Central Theatre, Chatham – City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky's 6th Symphony and present Jerome Sadler playing Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.1.
- Saturday May 17th, 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone – Maidstone Symphony Orchestra concert includes Tchaikovsky's 1st Piano Concerto and Shostakovich's 10th Symphony. Tickets 01622 736392

Brian Hardy

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Bread	Edge	Pen	Knife
2	Fishing	Hot	Stair	Rod
3	Read	Red	Nelson	Admiral
4	Boat	Human	Meeting	Race
5	Days	Fruit	Green	Salad
6	Corn	William	Pea	Sweet
7	Garden	Post	Tail	Gate
8	Horn	Laser	Sun	Beam
9	Racing	Tyre	Rate	Flat
10	Cracker	Shaving	Ice	Cream
11	Shadow	Filing	Maker	Cabinet
12	Hero	Market	Model	Super
13	House	Moon	Stop	Full
14	Capital	News	Box	Letter
15	Paper	Lifting	Bantam	Weight
16	Coat	Stile	Star	Turn

The Thursday Choir Spring Concert in St.Mary's Church Lenham on Saturday May 10th at 7.30pm

A programme of uplifting music - from the serious to the
seriously syncopated
accompanists: Joan Ratcliffe: piano, Michael Forde: drums

Free entrance with retiring collection towards the provision of
facilities for the disabled in St.Mary's
Refreshments will be provided,

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – May 2008

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 4 th May	08.00 L	BCP HC
	09.30 BM	CW 1
	09.30 H	Family Service
Ascension Sunday	11.00 L	CW 1
	11.15 U	Family Service
Sun 11 th May	08.00 L	BCP HC
	09.30 BM	Family Service
	09.30 H	CW 1
	11.00 L	Family Service
Pentecost	11.15 U	CW 1
	19.00 U	Taize Service – All Saints Ulcombe
Sun 18 th May	08.00 L	BCP HC
	09.30 BM	BCP HC
	09.30 H	CW 1
	11.00 L	CW 1
	11.15 U	CW 1
Trinity Sunday	18.30 BM	BCP Evening Prayer
Sun 25 th May	08.00 L	BCP HC
	10.00 BM	Benefice Service Boughton Malherbe
1 st Sunday after Trinity	18.30 H	Informal Service

Key

Parishes / Churches

L: Lenham
BM: Boughton Malherbe
H: Harrietsham
U: Ulcombe

Services

BCP HC = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Holy Communion
BCP EP = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Evening Prayer
Fam Svc = Family Service (not Communion)
MS = Morning Service (not Communion)
CW 1 = Common Worship (Order One)
H = Holy Communion
Informal = Informal! (not communion)

From the Registers

Saturday 26th January: Wedding of John Rupert Malise Harvey and Susan Kathleen Perkins in St. John the Baptist Harrietsham

Sunday 13th January: Baptism of Daniel Alex Jones in St. Mary's Lenham

Saturday 16th February: Wedding of Simon Gary Evans and Joanna Long in St. Mary's Lenham

Sunday 9th March: Baptism of Edward James Wraight in St. Mary's Lenham

Sunday 30th March: Wedding of Thomas Edward Osborne and Karen Anne Thompson in St. John the Baptist Harrietsham

Sunday 6th April: Baptism of Evie Lucy Jean Armstrong in St. Mary's Lenham

Sunday 27th April: Baptism of Madeline Eve Goddard and Eleanor Joy Goddard in St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe

Sunday 4th May: Baptism of Lauren Elizabeth Pilcher in St. Mary's Lenham